Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05039 101310Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 118771
P R 101225Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 215
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5039

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, OVIP, GE, US, BEXP, PFOR
SUBJECT: GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER BEIL'S VISIT

REF: STATE 3612

1. JANUARY 8, AT 2 P.M, ACCOMPANIED BY DCM GROVE, I MADE A COURTESY CALL ON DEPTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HORST GRUNERT. THE MEETING LASTED 50 MINUTES. OTHERS PRESENT WERE SIEMENS, OF THE NORTH AMERICAN SECTION, WHO TOO NOTES, AND A GDR INTERPRETER.

2. DURING THE FIRST 20-25 MINUTES, OUR TALK COULD BE CHARAC-TERIZED AS A REPETITION OF PRIOR TALSKW WITH STOPH AND FISCHER IN SEVERAL ASPECTS- EXCHANGE OF COURTESIES, EMPHASIS ON DEVELOP-MENT OF RELATIONS "STEP BY STEP", AND RECOGNITION OF THE DIFFERING COMMITMENTS AND TIES OF THE US AND GDR.

3. THE DISTINCTIVE DIFFERENE IN MY TALK WITH GRUNERT AND PRIOR TALKS WITH GDR OFFICAILAS WAS THE BEARING AND PERSONALITY OF GRUNERT. SIMILAR TO STOPH, UTTERLY UNLIKE FISCHER, GRUNERT, A VETERAN DIPLOMAT, APPEARED MORE SOPHISTICATED THAN EITHER OF

THEM ABOUT U.S. -GDR POSITIONS AND RELATIONS. HE IS PERSONABLE, VERY DIRECT, CALM AND COURTEOUS IN HIS OWN STATEMENTS AND IN REACTION TO MINE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BERLIN 05039 101310Z

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

4. HAVING RECEIVED INSTRUCTION FROM THE DEPARTMENT IN STATE 3612 TO INFORM THE GDR OF THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION WITH RESPECT TO DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER BEIL AND SIMILAR VISITS, I DID SO AND FOLLOWED PRECISELY THE POINTS INCLUDED IN THIS INSTRUCTION. GRUNERT, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT STARTLED, RESPONDED REASONABILY TO OUR VIEWS ON THE TIMING OF BEIL'S VISIT, NOTING THAT ORIGINAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE GDR AND U.S. CONCERNING BEIL HAD OCCURRED BEFORE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THE GDR RECOGNIZED THAT, SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS, THE OFFICIAL CHARACTER OF THIS VISIT WAS A NEW DIMENSION. GRUNERT SAID THAT BEIL'S PROPOSED VISIT WAS AT THE REQUEST OF U.S. BUSINESSMEN; IT WAS NEVER INTENDED THAT HE SHOULD INITIATE TALKS ON A TRADE AGREEMENT: THE TRIP AT THIS TIME WAS MOOT AND BEIL WOULD GO INSTEAD TO JAPAN.

5. GRUNERT CONCURRED IN THE NECESSITY OF NEGOTIATING A CONSULAR AGREEMENT, NOTING STEPS TAKEN BY THE GDR THUS FAR. THEN, AS I EXPECTED, HE REACTED STRONGLY TO THE STATMENT IN THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT (PARA 3) THAT IN ADDITION TO PROGRESS ON A CONSULAR AGREEMENT, HIGH-LEVEL VISITS SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED UNTIL SOME HEADWAY HAD BEEN MADE ON SUCH MATTERS AS THE LIST OF HUMANITARIAN CASES. HE STATED FIRMLY THAT EACH CASE WOULD BE CONSIDERED ON ITS MERITS AND THAT IT WAS THE POSITION OF THE GDR THAT TO LINK OR CONDITION PROGRESS ON SUCH CASES WITH VISIT OF GDR OFFICIALS OR OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE GDR-U.S. AGREEMENT COULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED UNACCEP-TABLE PRESSURE ON GDR AND AN INTERFERENCE IN GDR INTERNAL AFFAIRS. "WE DO NOT THINK IT PROPER TO LINK ISSUES IN OUR RELATIONS THAT DO NOT BELONG TOGETHER," HE SAID.

6 I DID NOT DRAW ON STATE 277325 OF 18 DECEMBER WHICH REPORTED ELM'S COMMENT THAT GDR, DURING CONSULAR AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS HUMANITARINA CASES AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD ON THIS OCCASION CONVEYED TO ELM THAT IN OUR VIEW HUMANITARIAN CASES WERE NOT LINKED WITH PROGRESS ON A CONSULAR AGREEMENT. I COMMENTED INSTEAD THAT THE U.S. INTENDED NO PRESSURE OR INTERFERENCE IN CONNECTION WITH OFFICIAL VISITS OR THE CONSIDERATION OF SUBJECTS IN OUR SEPT. 4 AGREEMENT AND, PERSONALLY, THAT PRESSURE BY GDR OR U.S. WAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS.
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BERLIN 05039 101310Z

7 COMMENT: I HAD ANTICIPATED GRUNERT'S REACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE SUGGESTION OF LINKAGE BETWEEN PROGRESS IN HUMANITARIAN CASES AND A CONSULAR AGREEMENT ON THE ONE HAND, AND FAVORABLE U. S.CONSIDERATION OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITS BY GDR OFFICIALS ON THE OTHER.

8. IT IS MY JUDGMENT THAT ACTION ON HUMANITARIAN CASES

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

SHOULD NOT BE LINKED OR CONDITIONED WITH OTHER SUBJECTS STEMMING FROM THE SEPT. 4 AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY IN THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RELATIONS. THIS TACTIC COULD IMPEDE PROGRESS ON SUBJECTS WE HAVE AGREED TO NEGOTIATE, AND MAKE THE GDR TOUGHER ON HUMANITARIAN CASES AS AN ASSERTION OF INDEPENDENCE FROM "PRESSURE" AND ALLEGED INTERFERENCE BY THE U.S. IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

9. THE EMBASSY ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO HUMANITARIAN CASES, WILL USE ITS BEST EFFORTS TOWARD THERI SOLUTION, AND IF IT DEVELOPS THAT STEADY PROGRESS IS NOT BEING MADE TOWARD THEIR SOLUTION, CONSIDERS THAT, ON INSTRUCTION FROM THE DEPARTMENT, THE SUBJECT SHOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE GDR, BUT AS AN ISSUE SEPARATE FROM SUBJECTS OF SEPTEMBER 4 AGREEMENT.

10 THE U.S. AS A GREAT POWER, SHOULD BE CORRECT IN EVERY ASPECT OF ITS ADHERENCE TO THE SEPTEMBER 4 AGREEMENT. WE SHOULD BE PERCEIVED TO MEAN WHAT WE SAY.

11. RECOGNIZING THE MERIT OF THE POSITION OF THE DEPARTMENT REGARDING THE BEIL VISIT OR VISITS OF OTHER HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS AT THIS TIME, YET IN CONSONANCE WITH GENERAL PRINCI-PLE OF PRECEDING PARAGRAPH, I CONCLUDE THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER TO ALLOW THE BEIL TRIP TO TAKE PLACE AS AN ORIENTATION VISIT BECAUSE OF PRIOR APPROVAL BY THE DEPARTMENT. OF GREATER IMPORTANCE, I SUGGEST THAT THE AVOIDANCE OF LINKAGE BETWEEN SUBJECTS OF SEPTEMBER 4 AND OTHER ISSUES, SUCH AS HUMANITARIAN CASES, AT THIS STAGE IN OUR RELATIONS, IS THE BEST COURSE FOR OF U.S. INTERESTS, THE SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION OF SEPT. 4 ISSUES, AND PROGRESS IN HUMANITARIAN CASES.COOPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, ITINERARY, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERLIN05039
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750010-0568
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750163/aaaacdnd.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 3612
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER BEIL'S VISIT
TAGS: ETRD, OVIP, BEXP, PFOR, GC, US, (BEIL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006